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Foreword

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Foreword

The story of the *Yearbook of International Law* is one of humble beginnings. I still remember our first editors' meeting in the small conference room in the third floor of the law library. Sitting with me at the table were the four founding editors: Jill Anderson, Michael Johnson, Kevin Roberts, and Alex Palenzuela, all keen students of international law. I called them believers in the dream, for at the time the *Yearbook* was only a proposal.

We wanted to create an original publication, a journal that would serve not only as a forum for the discussion and development of international law in the English speaking world, but also as a tool of research and practice for English as well as non-English reading international lawyers and scholars. We came to the conclusion that our purpose could be achieved by publishing a master English edition of the *Yearbook*, which could then be translated into French and Spanish and made available in Europe and Latin America. Foreign lawyers would be able to submit articles in their native languages, which would then be translated into English and published in the master English edition.

Indeed, although the task ahead was monumental, the *Yearbook* was a wonderful idea, and we were determined to make it a reality. Many Miami students, including ourselves, had been attracted to the University by its strong reputation as a center for research in international law. We wanted to have a journal where we could write and edit articles about the European Community, the Soviet Union, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, even Australia. International law had changed dramatically in the last few years, and there were many things we could talk about: international trade, human rights, the environment. Besides discussing the most important international decisions rendered by American courts, we wanted to write casenotes on decisions from the World Court, the European Court, the U.S.-Iran Claims Tribunal, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Moreover, we knew that by translating legal articles written by lawyers trained in the civil law tradition, we would acquire invaluable experience in the civil law, and would be able to better understand how our colleagues from other countries approach and solve a legal problem. We knew that a good understanding of foreign law, especially of foreign legal terminology, would be of great help to us in our professional careers as international lawyers.

With this idea in our minds and much faith in our hearts, we sent letters to lawyers in Europe and Latin America, asking them to submit articles for publication in the inaugural issue of our *Yearbook of International Law*. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Today, the first part of our dream has become a reality. The first master English edition of the *Yearbook* is being published as scheduled, and its translation into French and Spanish is already underway.

This inaugural issue of the *Yearbook of International Law* represents the culmination of many hours of hard and dedicated work. We would like to thank all the members of the faculty and administration who through their work and inspiration made possible the publication of this inaugural issue. In particular, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to Dean Jeannette Hausler, who from the very beginning gave us her wholehearted support. Professors Stephen Schnably and Francisco García-Amador devoted many hours of their time to listen to our ideas and to answer our questions. They provided invaluable advice and shared in our joy as the *Yearbook* emerged from the realm of proposal and slowly became a reality. For this we are deeply indebted to them. Finally, we would like to thank all the editors, candidates and members for their imaginative and diligent work. They accepted the challenge of editing the *Yearbook* and spent many hours locating and translating sources that sometimes were very difficult to find.

It is an honor for me to present to you this inaugural issue of the *Yearbook of International Law*. As the *Yearbook's* first editor-in-chief, I accept responsibility for any mistakes that might be found in the copy. In future issues, we will strive to improve the quality of the *Yearbook* and to make it a leading publication in the field of international law. As I close these lines, I would like to thank my wife and family, who supported me all the way since the beginning of this project. Above all, I thank our Creator, who from his ruling place in the universe makes all things possible.

Víctor Marroquín-Merino
Coral Gables, December 16, 1991